

through intelligent effort, have realized big reductions this year to date.

The Council has a huge functioning organization ready to proceed with increased vigor under the impetus of this larger and more intensive program. The fourth year of the National Traffic Safety Contest, now under way, shows that thirty-three states and more than eight hundred cities have entered into this worthwhile rivalry. The new and enlarged program should cause most of them to redouble their efforts.

## LETTERS

### Concerning an imaginary law demanding shock-proof x-ray rooms.

CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

January 31, 1936.

*To the Editor:*—A few days ago I received a communication from Doctor Yocum, secretary of the San Luis Obispo County Medical Society stating that an x-ray salesman inferred to him that the last legislature passed a law which requires the owners and operators of every x-ray machine to make them shock-proof, and in the event that they don't they would be subject to a fine or legal penalty. I had not heard of any such legislation and, consequently, I asked Mr. Peart to review the bills that were passed at the last legislature.

I enclose copy of reply received from Mr. Peart.

I think this is an item of sufficient importance to merit editorial comment, and suggest that you make such comment in order that our members be not imposed upon by manufacturers of electrical equipment.

Yours very sincerely,

F. C. WARNSHUIS, *Secretary.*

January 28, 1936.

F. W. Yocum, M. D.,  
Secretary, San Luis Obispo County Medical Society,  
San Luis Obispo, California.

Dear Doctor Yocum:

Doctor Warnshuis has referred to me your letter to him, dated January 23, 1936, in which you state that you are informed that there is a California law of recent enactment which will in the near future compel every user of x-ray equipment to have it completely shock-proofed.

A careful review of the laws passed at the last legislature does not show that such a bill was passed. There was one bill passed referring to x-rays which, however, I think would not refer to equipment. This bill did not become a law.

Inquiry here among some of the high-class x-ray distributors discloses that some salesmen are trying to high-pressure doctors with statements of the character made to you.

Trusting this gives you the information desired, I am

Very truly yours,

HARTLEY F. PEART.

### Concerning the official Journal of the California Medical Association.\*

New Bedford, Massachusetts,

January 25, 1936.

Dear Doctor Warnshuis:

Two days ago I received the January issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE and have read, from cover to cover, every line. It is a splendid publication in every sense, and an example of what a state or regional journal should be. If I could afford it I would subscribe for and read it along with the journals of Pennsylvania, Texas, and Indiana. The last was most interesting in the days of Bulson's editorship. I believe that concentrating on these, with the inclusive reports of discussions of papers in the many district societies, would be more informing than hours of study of accepted standard textbooks. The medical matter is not subordinated to adver-

tising, but prevails mightily throughout, is novel and most satisfying.

I noted the reprinting of the report of the Michigan delegates of the Atlantic City meeting of the American Medical Association on the press story of the "spanking." As I wrote you some time ago, I do believe that was a press gadget. I know nothing of the whole matter, as I heard no preliminary talk with or without malice of shifts in officers. As to Carl Moll, no one regretted more than I that he was not chosen as trustee. . . .

That we, of Massachusetts, should have been classed as "stand pat" Republicans added some mirth to our reading, as I am a Democrat, states rights variety at present seemingly rare, but I take it as a compliment. Mongan, "be-whiskered and good-natured" as he is, is our president and the one well-informed member on health insurance, and at present in the issues a bulwark of strength. . . .

With all kind regards,

Sincerely,

(Signed) EDMOND F. CODY.

ILLINOIS STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY  
30 NORTH MICHIGAN AVENUE  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

January 27, 1936.

Dear Doctor Warnshuis:

Your communication of the 22nd received. I personally approve of it heartily and wonder why such a measure has not been introduced before.

I am sending it to our secretary, and it will come up at the March meeting of the Council. . . .

With best regards, I am

Cordially yours,

(Signed) CHARLES B. REED,  
*President.*

### Concerning expert medical testimony: A recent legal encounter.

On page 74 comment is made concerning a recent demand by certain attorneys to force a physician to give expert medical testimony without receiving a compensating fee. The subpoena served on the physician is printed below, followed by the opinion of the General Counsel of the California Medical Association, that code enactments by the last legislature have made no change in the established law, in so far as privileged and expert medical testimony are concerned.

#### SUBPOENA SERVED UPON THE PHYSICIAN

In the Superior Court of the State of California in and for the County of Los Angeles  
No. 395035

Subpoena Duces Tecum to Appear Before a  
Notary Public

J. Edward Keating, Plaintiff, vs. The Pacific Mutual Life Insurance Company of California, a Corporation, Defendant.

The People of the State of California send greetings to John Ruddock.

We command you, that all and singular business and excuses laid aside, you attend and appear before C. R. Liljestrom, a notary public in and for the County of Los Angeles, State of California, at the office of Mills, Hunter & Dunn, 1222 Chapman Building, 756 South Broadway, in the City of Los Angeles, County of Los Angeles, State of California, on Saturday, the fourteenth day of December, 1935, at 9 o'clock a. m. of said day, then and there to testify in this cause now pending in the above-named Superior Court, on the part of the plaintiff, and for failure to attend you will be deemed guilty of contempt of court and liable to pay all losses and damages sustained thereby to the parties aggrieved, and forfeit One Hundred Dollars in addition thereto.

And you are further commanded to bring with you and there produce the following-named books, documents and other things, to wit:

Records of the taking of an electrocardiograph of J. Edward Keating in June, 1935.

Notes made on the taking and reading of said electrocardiograph.

Electrocardiograph report dated June<sup>19</sup>, 1935, or true copy thereof, made to the defendant or to Dr. Arthur E. Mark.

\* See also Council Minutes (items 16 and 31, pages 123 and 124.